

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015870

LIMDIS - HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO PFOR PARM UR DA

SUBJECT: DANISH PROPOSALS ON NATO ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS

REF: A) USNATO 0285; B) USNATO 0302

1. WE READ WITH INTEREST DANISH NON-PAPER TRANSMITTED REF
A AND MISSION REPORT AND COMMENT ON PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF
SUBJECT JAN 18 (REF B).

2. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION BY PERMREPS, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED
TO ENDORSE GENERAL THRUST OF DANISH SUGGESTION FOR GREATER
CONSULTATION IN NATO ON ARMS CONTROL TOPICS. HOWEVER, WE
WOULD NOT WANT TO PUSH ANY PROCEDURAL STEP, OR GET INTO
DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE, IF IT APPEARED THAT THERE WAS SER-
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IOUS INTERNAL DISAGREEMENT.

3. FYI: WE BELIEVE DANISH SUGGESTION THAT NATO ANALYZE
WHAT LIES BEHIND EASTERN DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS LIES WITHIN
SCOPE OF LONGSTANDING NATO INTERESTS AND PROCEDURES. IT
PARALLELS, FOR EXAMPLE, PERMREPS DISCUSSION AND IS STUDY OF
WARSAW PACT PROPOSALS ON NON-FIRST-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT DANISH PROPOSAL ALSO ASKS FOR ANALYSIS OF HOW NATO CAN COUNTER WARSAW PACT INITIATIVES, WHICH COULD HAVE SENSITIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS, DEPENDING ON TOPIC. MOREOVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

MAY BELIEVE THAT SOME EASTERN DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS ARE UNRELATED TO ALLIANCE SECURITY INTERESTS AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF NATO CONSULTATIONS. WITHOUT WANTING TO ENGAGE IN DEBATE ON THESE POINTS, WE WOULD HOPE THAT ALL ALLIES WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT -- IN PRINCIPLE -- THE VALUE OF THAT DANISH SUGGESTION.

4. WE ARE UNCLEAR PRECISELY WHAT THE DANES HAVE IN MIND BY THEIR SUGGESTION TO ESTABLISH "CATALOG" OF "ELEMENTS" THAT COULD LEAD TO "JOINT WESTERN DISARMAMENT POLICIES" IN THE FORM OF "CONCRETE PROPOSALS." WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPLORE WITH THE ALLIES A MORE PRECISE DESCRIPTION OF THIS DANISH SUGGESTION, WE WOULD WANT TO RESERVE OUR OPINION ON WHETHER THIS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO FRUITFUL NATO CONSULTATIONS.

5. MOREOVER, WE WOULD NOT WISH DANISH SUGGESTION TO AFFECT IN ANY WAY THE EXCELLENT SUBSTANTIVE AND TACTICAL CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE ON-GOING ARMS CONTROL ISSUES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES SUCH AS SALT AND MBFR.

6. FINALLY, WHILE WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO PERMIT FRENCH TO IMPOSE THEIR UNILATERAL VIEWS ON APPROPRIATE SUBJECTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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NATO CONSULTATIONS, WE WILL WANT TO EXAMINE VERY CAREFULLY TINE'S INSTRUCTED COMMENTS ON DANISH SUGGESTIONS AND AVOID PRECIPITATING CONFRONTATION WITH FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WILL WANT MISSIONS DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF EXTENT OF FLEXIBILITY IN FRENCH ATTITUDE ON THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT. END FYI

7. FOR PARIS: WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON FRENCH ATTITUDES.

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